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EXAMINER
RAMAN, USHA

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _12 September 2007_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _19-41_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _19-41_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth

in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

September 12th, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19, 29 and 37 have been considered

but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 19-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 recites the limitations of "searching the multimedia signal to identify

an occurrence of the search parameter in the first data format component of the

multimedia signal" and "delimiting the first data format component of the multimedia

signal from a beginning of the identified occurrence of the search parameter to an

end of the identified occurrence of the search parameter". As best understood by

the examiner, it appears that the claim language as recited appears to be delimiting

the beginning and end search parameter itself because both the beginning and the

end correspond to the *same occurrence* of an identified search parameter, whereas

applicant's disclosure teaches that the keyword *delimits the start and end of a*

multimedia segment, i.e. the beginning and end would correspond to *different*

occurrences (e.g. first and second occurrence) of the identified search parameter,

thereby delimiting the segment between the two occurrences of the identified search

parameter.

Claims 29 and 37 are rendered indefinite for similar reasons as claim 19.

Claims 20-28, 30-36 and 38-41 are rendered indefinite for depending on

indefinite claims 19, 29 and 37 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form

the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 19-32, 35-38, and 40-41 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Ahmad et al. (US Pat. 6,263,507).

With regards to claim 19, Ahmad discloses a method of partitioning a

contiguous set of multimedia information into "segments" by using identification of

markers and/or the occurrence of particular word or sequence of words in the text

data (e.g. closed captioning) corresponding to an audio-visual data. See column 23, lines 36-59. Ahmad accordingly utilizes a method for searching a "search parameter" (i.e. the word or sequence of words identifying the break) in a multimedia signal (e.g. television signal comprising closed captioning) comprising:

Determining the "search parameter" that form the basis of partitioning the multimedia signal into segments (see column 23, lines 50-59) wherein the search parameter maybe determined in a text format such as closed captioning and the multimedia signal comprises data in format component (text data) and a second format component (video).

It is further noted that the step of "identification of the occurrence of a particular word" (see column 23, lines 53-55) anticipates the claimed step of "searching the multimedia signal to identify the occurrence of the search parameter in the first data format component of the multimedia signal".

The method of Ahmad is further used to determine segment demarcation or partitioning upon the identification of particular words in the first data component (see column 23, lines 26-28 and lines 50-52) and therefore anticipates the claimed step of "delimiting the first data format component of the multimedia signal from a beginning of the identified occurrence of the search parameter to an end of the identified occurrence of the search parameter";

Ahmad further discloses the step of determining a portion of the second data format (video portion) that corresponds to the delimited first data format component of the multimedia signal, and synchronizing the corresponding second data

component using coarse and fine portioning (see column 26, lines 3-18 and column

27, lines 29-37). Therefore Ahmad further anticipates the claimed step of

"synchronizing a first segment and a second segment of the multimedia signal,

wherein the first segment includes the occurrence of the search parameter in the

first data format component of the multimedia signal and the second segment

includes the portion of the second data format component of the multimedia signal

that corresponds to the delimited first data format component".

With regards to claims 20 and 22, Ahmad discloses the scenario wherein the first

data format is a closed caption component of the multimedia signal and the second

data format component is an audio component or a video component of the

multimedia signal (see column 23, lines 36-38).

With regards to claim 21, Ahmad discloses that the second segment of

multimedia signal is a section of the audio component that begins and ends within a

predetermined period of time before and after the occurrence of the search

parameter in the closed caption component (see column 26 lines 65-column 27, line

3)

With regards to claim 23, Ahmad discloses that the second segment of

multimedia signal is a section of the video component that begins and ends within a

predetermined period of time before and after the occurrence of the search

parameter in the closed caption component (see column 26 lines 65-column 27, line

3).

With regards to claim 24, Ahmad discloses that video data includes images (see column 9, lines 51-53).

With regards to claim 25, Ahmad also discloses the scenario wherein the first data format is an audio format (see column 24, lines 10-12, and lines 30-37) and the second data format is a video format of the multimedia signal (see column 24, lines 2-9).

With regards to claims 26 and 40, Ahmad discloses that the format of the first data format component and second data format component are selected from the group consisting of: text data, closed caption data, audio data, speech data and video data.

With regards to claim 27, Ahmad also discloses the scenario wherein when the closed captioning data is not available, the audio component is used to produce the text data using speech recognition methods (see column 25, lines 65-67). In such a scenario, Ahmad teaches receiving a third format component of audio, second format component of video, and determining search parameters in a third data format and converting the search parameter from the third data format to the first data format (i.e. text).

With regards to claim 28, Ahmad discloses that the format of the third data format component and the first data format component are selected from the group consisting of: text data, and audio data.

With regards to claim 29, Ahmad discloses a method of processing a multimedia signal comprising:

Analyzing a first data format component (e.g. text data such as closed

caption) of the multimedia signal to identify an occurrence of a search parameter

(see column 23, lines 36-59);

The method of Ahmad is used to determine segment demarcation or

partitioning upon the identification of particular words in the first data component

(see column 23, lines 26-28 and lines 50-52) and therefore anticipates the claimed

step of "delimiting the first data format component of the multimedia signal from a

beginning of the identified occurrence of the search parameter to an end of the

identified occurrence of the search parameter";

Ahmad further discloses the step of determining a portion of the second data

format (video portion) that corresponds to the delimited first data format component

of the multimedia signal, and synchronizing the corresponding second data

component using coarse and fine portioning (see column 26, lines 3-18 and column

27, lines 29-37). Therefore Ahmad further anticipates the claimed step of

"synchronizing a first segment and a second segment of the multimedia signal,

wherein the first segment includes the occurrence of the search parameter in the

first data format component of the multimedia signal and the second segment

includes the portion of the second data format component of the multimedia signal

that corresponds to the delimited first data format component".

With regards to claim 30, Ahmad discloses displaying the segment of the video

component to a user, when the second data format is a video component (see

column 2, lines 66-column 3, line 4).

With regards to claim 31, Ahmad discloses displaying a segment of the video component comprising a single image (see column 9, lines 51-53).

With regards to claim 32, the video component is a video clip of predetermined length that substantially corresponds to an occurrence of the search parameter in the first data format component (see column 26 lines 65-column 27, line 3).

With regards to claim 35, Ahmad also discloses the scenario wherein when the closed captioning data is not available, the audio component is used to produce the text data using speech recognition methods (see column 25, lines 65-67). In such a scenario, Ahmad teaches determining search parameters in a third data format and converting the search parameter from the third data format to the first data format (i.e. text).

With regard to claim 36, Ahmad utilizes known speech recognition methods to produce text data from audio data. Accordingly Ahmad uses speech to text converter.

With regards to claim 37, Ahmad discloses a method of processing a multimedia signal comprising:

Determining the "search parameter" that form the basis of partitioning the multimedia signal into segments (see column 23, lines 50-59) wherein the search parameter maybe determined in a text format such as closed captioning and the multimedia signal comprises data in format component (text data) and a second format component (video).

It is further noted that the step of "identification of the occurrence of a particular word" (see column 23, lines 53-55) anticipates the claimed step of "processing the multimedia signal to identify the occurrence of the search parameter in a first data format component of the multimedia signal", wherein the multimedia signal has at least the first component (e.g. text data such as closed caption) and a second component (video) being in a first data format and a second data format respectively.

The method of Ahmad is used to determine segment demarcation or partitioning upon the identification of particular words in the first data component (see column 23, lines 26-28 and lines 50-52) and therefore anticipates the claimed step of "delimiting the first data format component of the multimedia signal from a beginning of the identified occurrence of the search parameter to an end of the identified occurrence of the search.

Ahmad further discloses the step of determining a portion of the second data format (video portion) that corresponds to the delimited first data format component of the multimedia signal, and synchronizing the corresponding second data component using coarse and fine portioning (see column 26, lines 3-18 and column 27, lines 29-37).

With regards to claim 38, Ahmad also discloses the scenario wherein when the closed captioning data is not available, the audio component is used to produce the text data using speech recognition methods (see column 25, lines 65-67). In such a scenario, Ahmad teaches determining search parameters in a format different from

the first data format and converting the search parameter to the first data format (i.e.

text).

With regard to claim 41, Ahmad discloses the step of determining a portion of

the second data format (video portion) that corresponds to the delimited first data

format component of the multimedia signal, and synchronizing the corresponding

second data component using coarse and fine portioning (see column 26, lines 3-18

and column 27, lines 29-37). Therefore Ahmad further anticipates the claimed step

of "synchronizing a first segment and a second segment of the multimedia signal,

wherein the first segment includes the occurrence of the search parameter in the

first data format component of the multimedia signal and the second segment

includes the portion of the second data format component of the multimedia signal

that corresponds to the delimited first data format component".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 33-34 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ahmad et al. (US Pat. 6,263,507)

With regards to claims 33 and 39, Ahmad also discloses that audio segments

maybe delimited by known words and/or sequence of words. Determination of when

such known words occur, requires the system to maintain a database of what

constitutes such "known" words. While Ahmad is silent on the step of format

component for the known words in such a database, examiner takes Official notice

that it was well known to maintain a dictionary of such "known" words in a text

format. Official notice is further taken that it text to speech converters were well

known in the art at the time of the invention. As such, it would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art to generate an audio signal of a "known" word that is of

a text format in a dictionary and compare the converted audio signal to the audio

signal of the multimedia signal to detect audio delimiters.

       With regards to claim 34, the modified system of Ahmad utilizes a text to

speech converter to convert the search parameter into a text format.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

       Luther (US Pat. 5,555,343) is evidence to one of ordinary skill in the art that

text to speech converters were well known at the time of the invention.

       Corey et al. (US Pat. 5,703,655) discloses a method for using detecting

logical breaks in a closed caption text to decompose video into segments.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to USHA RAMAN whose telephone number is

(571)272-7380. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chris Kelley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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